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SENATE BILL 2376
By Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, to authorize the issuance of "Choose Life" new specialty earmarked license plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Choose Life";

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the State of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in §55-4-203, shall be issued a "Choose Life" new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by §55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall include an appropriate logo and design and shall contain the language "Choose Life" at the bottom of the plate where the county name is usually indicated.

c) The funds produced from the sale of such "Choose Life" new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated by the department of finance and administration in accordance with §55-4-215.

(d) (1) The funds produced from the sale of such "Choose Life" new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated annually to each county in the ratio that the registration fees collected by each county for such plates bear to the total registration fees collected for such plates within the state. Each county shall allocate the funds to non-governmental, not-for-profit agencies within the county, which agencies' services are limited to counseling and meeting the physical needs of pregnant women who are committed to placing their children for adoption. Funds shall not be allocated to any agency that is involved or associated with abortion activities, including counseling for or referrals to abortion clinics, providing medical abortion-related procedures, or pro-abortion advertising. Funds shall not be allocated to any agency that charges women for services received.

(2) Agencies that receive the funds shall use at least seventy percent (70%) of such funds to provide for the material needs of pregnant women who are committed to placing their children for adoption, including clothing, housing, medical care, food, utilities, and transportation. Such funds may also be expended on infants awaiting placement with adoptive parents.

(3) The remaining funds may be used for adoption, counseling, training, or advertising expenses, but shall not be used for administrative expenses, legal expenses, or capital expenditures.

(4) Each agency that receives such funds shall submit an annual audit, prepared by a certified public accountant, to the appropriate county. Any unexpended funds that exceed ten percent (10%) of the total funds received by an agency pursuant to this section during its fiscal year shall be returned to the appropriate county, which shall allocate such funds to other agencies authorized to receive funds pursuant to this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.